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Newsletter



GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

July 11, 1952

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

A GS program at Orlando, Fla.

is now under consideration. First step was taken last month when Assistant Director O.B. Conaway conferred with University of Florida officials on possibilities of a cooperative program designed to meet the needs of Federal employees in the Orlando area.

The University people were interested in working with us and now are making a survey to determine prospects for enrollment. If they look good the University will schedule the desired courses and provide instructors. GS will take the responsibility of arranging for classrooms and laboratories in USDA quarters in Orlando. We also will act in an advisory role on other aspects of the program.

If the plan goes through it will mark a milestone in the GS program to serve Federal field employees more effectively. It is a follow-up of my authorization from the General Administration Board to study possibilities of cooperation with Universities and Land-Grant colleges for the purpose of providing instruction for Federal employees in areas too far from the institutions for them to take work on campus.

The program in Orlando was proposed by Dr. F. C. Bishopp Assistant chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine who has been active in GS for many years as a teacher and as a member of the Departmental Committee on Biological Sciences. BEPQ maintains a laboratory in Orlando.

Registrar Sullivan reports:

that summer enrollment of 535 students in 39 classes is somewhat lower than last year's record when we had 699 students in 44 classes.

That our order is in for 80 thousand copies of the fall schedule of classes. These are printed by the Lancaster Press, Lancaster, Penn.

That the 1952-53 catalog also is in press. We expect copies to be delivered during the last two weeks in July.

One out of 10 GS students

is enrolled in a course in foreign languages-- French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Russian, or German. The proportion should be higher. In a recent talk on "Language Study and World Affairs", Earl J. McGrath, U.S. Commissioner of Education, underscored a situation which I have sensed keenly in my participation in foreign conferences. He said:

"In a recent international meeting on education the delegate from Egypt rose and addressed the audience in faultless English. The next day with equal fluency and precision he used French, the other official conference language. In private conversation with the representative from Western Germany he spoke the latter's language. And, of course, he was master of Arabic, his own tongue. Though the educators from some 40 other nations were linguistically less versatile than he, most of them could use at least one tongue in addition to their own with ease and exactness.

"At this conference the United States was represented by 5 persons all of whom had no less than 19 years of formal schooling, and all of whom held the PhD degree. Yet no one of them could use another language well enough to carry on even a private conversation fluently, to say nothing of addressing the conference formally from the floor."

Commissioner McGrath then went on to point out that our world position and the future of democracy in the decades ahead will rest on our ability to convince those who differ from us in culture, color, and creed, that we understand and respect them. "Only through the ability to use another language even modestly can we really become conscious of the full meaning of being a member of another nationality or cultural group. It is in our national interest to give as many of our citizens as possible the opportunity to gain these cultural insights."

Nice words for "Unified Mathematics,"

a course given every third year by Murray A. Geisler, come from T. S. Klein of the Mathematics Department, Suitland High School. Mr. Klein writes:

"During the past year I was enrolled in "Unified Mathematics" (307 A-B) and since both the organization of subject matter and the instruction were of unusually high calibre, I take the liberty to thank you for this most pleasant and profitable experience. I hope many teachers will enroll for the course when it is offered again."

Back from Bagdad

for a series of State Department conferences, L. H. Rohrbaugh, GS Director-on-leave, reports that the Point IV work, which he directs in Iraq, is getting under way satisfactorily.

In nearly 30 years' association

with state, regional, national--and more recently--international planning bodies, I have become increasingly impressed with the role of individual communities in the success of broad programs. And I have come to feel that communities participating in these programs have been handicapped in their attempts to conform to procedures conceived at distant points.

At the recent annual open house of the Texas Research Foundation, I took the opportunity to emphasize the need for greater community participation in agricultural research.

The over-all objective of this research would be to acquire facts essential to community advancement in the direction the community itself would choose to follow. It would aim at fundamentals...the well-known factors that are basic to community security and progress. The quest for truth would seek facts to clarify and enhance community-wide understanding of local factors of climate, soil, soil-water relationships, and the suitability of current cropping practices. It would examine land tenure, the adequacy of credit facilities, transportation, storage, processing, and marketing. It would seek to strengthen the all-important agricultural industrial relationships in the community. Farmers, bankers, merchants, educators, churchmen, industrial workers, doctors, lawyers, political office holders and governmental agencies would talk and act in the light of common understanding.

Self-engendered and self-impelled designs, evolving out of community self-appraisal could, I believe, be welded into state-wide, region-wide, or nation-wide activities and directed in the interest of recognized common need. This would result in a clearer focus of all programs at the community level, where, I submit, the focus should be.

Greatest compensation

likely to be realized by a research worker is the satisfaction he gets from effective endeavor. I had occasion recently--in gathering material for a talk before the National 4-H Club Camp--to crystalize my thinking on what it takes to make an effective researcher. Here are the 12 attributes as I see them:

- 1- An insatiable hunger for clear understanding
- 2- An incessant curiosity about things not understood
- 3- The gift for patient, close observation
- 4- An unfettered imagination
- 5- Initiative and an impelling urge to exercise it
- 6- Devotion to orderly procedures
- 7- Objective interest in results
- 8- Integrity in the interpretation of results
- 9- Clarity in reporting results
- 10- Basic training conducive to proficiency
- 11- Tolerance of conflicting viewpoints
- 12- Willingness to cooperate with others

Among new courses

scheduled for the coming year are "Medical Terminology" and "Workshop in Technical Writing." The first--of special interest to librarians, research workers, and secretaries--will be taught by Louise Bollo, a nasalologist (classifier of diseases) for Public Health Service. A graduate of George Washington University, Miss Bollo helped compile information for the volume, "International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death", and she is now working on material for a revised edition of "Standard Nomenclature of Diseases and Operations", published by the AMA.

The workshop in writing is designed to aid scientists in preparing reports for technical and professional publications. It will be conducted by Marguerite Gilstrap, information specialist with BPISAE and a member of the GS faculty since 1947.

Virginia Tatum, information specialist with BAI, has replaced Miss Gilstrap as co-teacher with J. K. McClaren of the courses in writing for official purposes. Miss Tatum is a graduate of the University of North Carolina Women's College. With USDA since 1944 she has done radio work with Station WPTF, Raleigh, N.C. and with the Columbia Broadcasting System.

L. J. Lapham, a staff member of the House sub-committee on government operations has replaced George Galloway as instructor in the course, "The Legislative Process." Dr. Lapham formerly taught at Florida State University. He is a graduate of Harvard.

GS NAMES IN THE NEWS

Walter S. Dix and *Marshall S. Wright* (Committee on Surveying and Mapping) were active in planning the program for the 12th annual meeting of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping at the Shoreham Hotel in June. Mr. Dix is executive secretary of the Congress. Mr. Wright is a past president.

Roland Eggar (Committee on Public Administration) will speak on "Trends and Problems in Financing Local Governments" at the meeting of the American Political Science Association in Buffalo, N.Y., August 26-28.

Caroline B. Sherman, who retired last fall from BAE, will lead the writing workshop sponsored by the Western Agricultural Economics Research Council of the Western Agricultural Experiment Stations at Flagstaff, Ariz., July 21-22.

